

# TREC

Thumb Regional Energy Collaborative Group

250 E. Huron Ave. #303, Bad Axe, MI 48413 Coordinator: Carl Osentoski, EDC

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November 29, 2010

Representative Jeff Mayes  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Subject: Proposed House Bill 6564 Offshore Wind Park Legislation

Dear Representative Mayes:

We are writing to you about our concerns regarding Proposed House Bill 6564. Once again a critically important proposal that will impact our communities for decades is trying to be fast tracked in the Michigan House for some unknown reason. While we understand the unique position Michigan has with offshore wind development we do not understand why the rush to get a bill passed this year without input from those of us most impacted. The Thumb consisting of Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola Counties has over 150 miles of shore line with our county borders extending well out into Lake Huron and Saginaw Bay. The GLOW report states Huron and Sanilac Counties have 2 of the 5 most favorable sites for offshore wind development, yet no one asks the people of the Thumb for their input. The short notice on the hearing for HB 6564 makes it nearly impossible for local boards to respond with a position. However, we ask that following concerns be placed on record on behalf of the Thumb Regional Energy Collaborative Group, comprised of Huron, Tuscola, and Sanilac Counties.

HB 6564 places a huge burden on County Boards to determine exceptions to the 6 mile off shore rule. While the local control is not given to anything over 6 miles, the county boundary extends to the middle of the Lake, thus giving effective control to the local government. We feel more local control is called for based on the aforementioned facts.

HB 6564 also places a huge burden on local planning commissions to conduct hearings without any hint of compensation to local units of governments to recover these costs. While the local control is welcomed, local input is needed on the process and compensation. This bill requires all lessee's to make royalties equal to 3% of gross revenues to the state. No dollars go directly back to local units of government whose borders the offshore wind parks will lie in. The local units of governments will be responsible for exceptions, planning and also the complaints but receive no compensation.

HB 6564 also requires 30% of the revenues go to administration and a renewable energy/energy efficiency fund that which, has no requirement for the funds to be used locally. If our constituents are going to give up their unrestricted views of the lake it seems only fair that these funds be used locally. These dollars should be used to improve the lives of people living locally.

HB 6564 also requires 70% of the royalty payments to be used to enhance and restore the Great Lakes with a preference to local hosting communities. While we applaud this effort we feel that most of the

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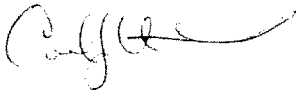
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funds should be under the direction of local units of government for shoreline projects that create jobs and tourism. Once again these offshore wind parks are being proposed within the boundaries of our Thumb Counties.

We all stand ready to work on these important renewable projects, but strongly urge the process be slowed down to allow for more input from residents in the Thumb. Thank you for your time on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Carl J. Osentoski  
Coordinator, TREC

**Huron County Members:**

Ron Wruble, Huron County Commissioner  
David Peruski, Huron County Commissioner  
Carl Osentoski, EDC Director  
Walt Schlichting, Tuscola & Huron County Equalization  
Wade Mazure, Sand Beach Twp. Supervisor  
James H. Kurcharczyk, Sand Beach Twp. Treasurer

**Tuscola County Members:**

Mike Hoagland, Tuscola County Controller  
Jim McLoskey, Tuscola County EDC Director  
Jerry Peterson, Tuscola County Commissioner  
Delores Damm, Tuscola County Planning Commission  
Ed Spanagel, Columbia Twp.  
Dick Dehmel, Columbia Twp.  
Jim Miklovic, Almer Twp. Supervisor

**Sanilac County Members:**

John Males, Sanilac County Administrator  
John Merriman, Sanilac Board of Commissioners  
Donald Kolar, Minden Twp.  
Tery O'Connor, Minden Twp. Supervisor

CC: Cath Petroskey, Committee Clerk  
MoReno Taylor, II, MAC